

Co. 2. 7<sup>th</sup> Maine Vols.  
5 miles from Richmond  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear John,

Enclosed is a cigar made by one of our men from tobacco taken while on picket from the Gaines Estate on the Chickahominy. The men make large numbers of them and we call them the Chickahominy brand. The tobacco is the best raised in Virginia. We are daily expecting a severe fight here. Col. Mason is rapidly recovering from his injuries. He had the most dashing fight the day he was hurt, I have yet seen. The papers have not got it right - they never do. Jimmy is waiting for my mail and my man Friday hints of supper, so I will close as the sun goes down over Richmond.

Your friend  
Thomas W. Hyde

H. Q. 7<sup>th</sup> Maine Vols.  
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 79989

Date: May 21, 1862

Description: Thomas W. Hyde of Bath, captain of Co. D of the 7th Maine Infantry, sent John Marshall Brown of Portland a cigar and an accompanying letter that explained its origins.